

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended. Claims 3-4 and 10 have been canceled. New claim 11 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 5-9 and 11 are currently pending in the above application.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the foreign priority document.

Specification

Applicants have amended the specification so that the Brief Description of the Drawings is now placed before the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, and 5-10 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyazaki et al. These rejections are traversed as follows.

An object of the present invention is to provide an automatic analyzer which ensures accurate absorbance measurement even when an electronic wave intensity for agitation of a sample and reagent becomes large. This permits optimization of the

ultrasonic wave intensity in a short period of time. According to the presently claimed invention, a reaction vessel has a prismatic shape. In addition, the reaction vessels are placed at an angle of 45 degrees relative to a radial direction of said reaction disk the reaction vessels are placed at an incline position with respect to the reaction disk. As a result, the reaction vessel has a surface exposed to ultrasonic waves that is different from an absorbance measurement surface. As such, the ultrasonic waves are not applied to the absorbance measuring surface, which in turn ensures accurate measurement of absorbance even if there is a large intensity of ultrasonic waves used for agitation. Furthermore, as recited in dependent claims 6 and 11, ultrasonic waves are applied through a side surface of the reaction vessel so as to agitate the reaction solution.

None of the cited references disclose these features of the presently claimed invention. In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants request that the rejection based upon Miyazaki et al be withdrawn. The deficiencies in Miyazaki et al are not overcome by resort to JP 08-146007 or any of the remaining cited references. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Request for Interview

Applicants request the Examiner conduct an interview with the undersigned. As such, the Examiner is hereby requested to contact the undersigned by telephone to arrange the interview.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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